United Nations A/63/853

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 May 2009

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 58 and 118

Report of the Human Rights Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Revised estimates resulting from resolution S-9/1 adopted by the Human Rights Council at its ninth special session in 2009

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report details budgetary requirements resulting from resolution S-9/1 adopted by the Human Rights Council at its ninth special session.

The additional requirements arising from the implementation of the activities foreseen in resolution S-9/1, for which provisions have not been made in the programme budget of the biennium 2008-2009, are currently estimated at $1,821,500 (net), of which an estimated amount of $650,600 will be met from extrabudgetary resources, and an amount estimated at $266,900 is envisaged to be met from within the resources already appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

Accordingly, the General Assembly is requested to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount of $904,000 (net) under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, representing the balance of the estimated requirement for implementation of the activities foreseen in resolution S-9/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the resource requirements resulting from the implementation of the activities foreseen in resolution S-9/1 adopted by the Human Rights Council at its ninth special session.

2. The Council held its ninth special session at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 9 and 12 January 2009. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Council was drawn, at its 3rd meeting, on 12 January 2009, to the fact that the draft resolution contained proposals that would require an analysis of the extent of the activities to be implemented as well as the level of resources required to implement such activities. Given the short period between the finalization of the draft resolution and its adoption, the Secretariat was not in a position to prepare and present the detailed statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution, which would require the requisite 48-hour period in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. However, the Council was orally informed that based on a preliminary review, there were programme budget implications in the implementation of resolution S-9/1 and that no provision had been included under section 23, Human rights, or other sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. In addition, the Council was informed that the detailed resource requirements would be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration and approval.

3. The Secretariat has carried out a thorough review of the implications of the resolution, and hereby submits to the General Assembly the detailed analysis of the programme budget implications of the resolution.

II. Additional requirements arising from Human Rights Council resolution S-9/1

4. Under the terms of its resolution S-9/1, the Human Rights Council,

(a) In paragraph 11 of the resolution requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the violations of human rights of the Palestinian people by the occupying Power, Israel, by: (i) strengthening the field presence of the Office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, and deploying the necessary personnel and expertise to monitor and document Israeli violations of the human rights of Palestinians and destruction of their properties; (ii) submitting periodic reports to the Council on the implementation of the resolution;

(b) In paragraph 12, the Council requested all relevant special procedures mandate holders, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the

right to non-discrimination in this context, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, to urgently seek and gather information on violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people and submit their reports to the Council at its next session;

(c) In paragraph 14, the Council decided to dispatch an urgent independent international fact-finding mission, to be appointed by the President of the Council, to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the occupying Power, Israel, against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, due to the current aggression, and calls upon Israel not to obstruct the process of investigation and to fully cooperate with the mission;

(d) In paragraph 15, the Council requested the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide all administrative, technical and logistical assistance required to enable the above-mentioned special procedures mandate holders and the fact-finding mission to fulfil their mandates promptly and efficiently;

(e) In paragraph 16, the Council requested the Secretary-General to investigate the latest targeting of facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in Gaza, including schools, which resulted in the killing of tens of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and to submit a report to the General Assembly thereon.

5. Total resource requirements amounting to $1,821,500 (net) or $1,846,200 (gross) are estimated, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 23 Human rights, and section 35, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, for the implementation of the activities foreseen in paragraphs 11 (a), 12 and 14. The details of the resource requirements are provided in the table below and explained in paragraphs 6 through 11.

Table
Summary of resource requirements for the biennium 2008-2009 resulting from Human Rights Council resolution S-9/1

Paragraph of resolution/section of budget	*Overall estimated requirements* (a)	*To be met from extrabudgetary resources* (b)	*Requirements envisaged to be met from existing appropriation* (c)	*Net balance proposed to be met through commitment authority* (d) = (a) - (b) - (c)
Paragraph 11 (a)				
Section 23. Human rights				
Staff costs	650 600	650 600	—	—
Subtotal	**650 600**	**650 600**	—	—
Paragraph 12				
Section 2, DGACM				
Interpretation	49 400	—	49 400	—

Paragraph of resolution/section of budget	*Overall estimated requirements* (a)	*To be met from extrabudgetary resources* (b)	*Requirements envisaged to be met from existing appropriation* (c)	*Net balance proposed to be met through commitment authority* (d) = (a) - (b) - (c)
Section 23. Human rights				
Staff costs	48 000	—	48 000	—
Travel of experts	101 400	—	101 400	—
Travel of staff	32 900	—	32 900	—
General operating expenses	35 200	—	35 200	—
Subtotal[a]	**266 900**	**—**	**266 900**	**—**
Paragraph 14				
Section 2, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management				
Interpretation	80 600	—	—	80 600
Section 23. Human rights				
Staff costs	109 500	—	—	109 500
Consultants	115 800	—	—	115 800
Travel of representatives	147 000	—	—	147 000
Travel of staff	220 100	—	—	220 100
Travel of witnesses	10 100	—	—	10 100
Translation from Hebrew into English	15 000	—	—	15 000
Security services	68 900	—	—	68 900
General operating expenses	63 000	—	—	63 000
Rental of vehicle	9 000	—	—	9 000
Rental of premises	30 000	—	—	30 000
Communications	10 000	—	—	10 000
Miscellaneous services	25 000	—	—	25 000
Subtotal	**904 000**	**—**	**—**	**904 000**
Section 35. Staff assessment	**24 700**	**—**	**7 100**	**17 600**
Income section 1. Income from staff assessment	**(24 700)**	**—**	**(7 100)**	**(17 600)**
Total	**1 821 500**	**650 600**	**266 900**	**904 000**

[a] The mandate holders responded to the terms of the resolution and submitted reports (A/HRC/10/220 and A/HRC/10/22) at the tenth session of the Human Rights Council. The requirements will be met, if need be, from within the provisions for the mandate holders under the regular budget.

6. In order to implement the terms of paragraph 11 (a), an amount of $650,600 would be required, under section 23, Human rights, to strengthen field presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip. The requirements would provide for the establishment of seven additional posts of two Human Rights Officers (1 P-4, 1 P-3), one P-3 Security Officer and two National Officers to serve as a Data Management and Human Rights Assistant, respectively,

and two Drivers. The existing presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is currently funded entirely from extrabudgetary resources, and it is anticipated that the strengthening of the field presence under paragraph 11 (a) of the resolution will continue to do so at an estimated cost of $650,600, which would also include operating expenses.

7. The requirements relating to paragraph 12, amounting to $266,900 which would have all relevant special procedures mandate holders seek and gather information on violations of human rights of the Palestinian people in order to submit their reports to the Human Rights Council have been anticipated to provide for:

(a) Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management: requirements of $49,400 for interpreters during meetings that would be held in relation to the missions;

(b) Section 23, Human rights: requirements of $217,500 for: (i) the travel of 10 experts to the region for 10 working days accompanied by 4 OHCHR staff, 4 local Interpreters and 6 Security Officers; (ii) general temporary assistance requirements at the P-3 level for four work months; and (iii) general operating expenses during field missions.

8. It should be noted that, under the terms of paragraph 12, a report (A/HRC/10/22) was submitted at the tenth session of the Human Rights Council, held in March 2009, by the mandate holders of the special procedures as listed in paragraph 12 of resolution S-9/1. Further, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 submitted a separate report (A/HRC/10/20) to the Human Rights Council. In addition, following her visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and southern Israel from 2 to 6 February 2009, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict also submitted a report (A/HRC/10/22, annex).

9. While most of the mandate holders have made requests and indicated to the concerned States their interest in undertaking a mission even if it could take place only later in the year, no other missions were undertaken or planned in the immediate future, except for the two missions mentioned above. It is expected that they will continue to monitor the situation in the Palestinian territories within their respective mandates. It is further anticipated that a number of missions are likely to be undertaken, individually by the mandate holders, rather than in a group jointly as called for in paragraph 12 and could possibly be undertaken within the provisions of the two annual missions by each mandate holder if the invitations/agreements to the visits are obtained. Therefore, the estimated requirement of $266,900 is envisaged to be met from within the approved appropriations under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($49,400), and section 23, Human rights ($217,500) under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

10. The requirements relating to paragraph 14, estimated at $904,000 (net), for dispatch of independent international fact-finding missions to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council would provide for:

(a) requirements amounting to $823,400, under section 23, Human rights, for: (i) travel by four high-level members to undertake two missions to the region of

10 working days and travel to Geneva for 17 days; (ii) travel of eight Close Protection Officers to accompany the four high-level members; (iii) travel of staff from various disciplines who will be based in the region for 3 months; (iv) general temporary assistance; (v) consultants with expertise in the forensic/ballistic/military area for 3 months and for 2 trips to the region for 10 days each; (vi) travel of 10 witnesses; (vii) contractual services for the translation of documents from Hebrew to English; (viii) as well as general operating expenses;

(b) Requirements amounting to $80,600, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for interpretation.

11. With respect to paragraph 16, a Board of Inquiry was constituted to review and investigate certain incidents that occurred in the Gaza Strip between 27 December 2008 and 19 January 2009 and in which death or injuries occurred at, and/or damage was done to, United Nations premises or in the course of United Nations operations. Commitments up to a maximum of $267,600 for the activities of the Board were authorized by the Secretary-General under the authority granted to him in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 62/239 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2008-2009. On 5 May 2009, the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a summary of the report by the United Nations Board of Inquiry into incidents affecting the United Nations personnel, premises and operations during the recent conflict in Gaza and southern Israel.

12. Although no provisions were included under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 23, Human rights, for the additional activities foreseen, under paragraphs 11, 12, 14 and 15, it is anticipated that a total of $1,821,500 (net) will be required, of which an amount of $650,600 will be met from extrabudgetary resources and an amount of $266,900 is envisaged to be met from within the resources already appropriated under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($49,400), and section 23, Human rights ($217,500), of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The estimated balance amount of $904,000 (net) represents the additional requirements to be financed from the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for which it is proposed commitment authority be granted.

III. Conclusions and recommendation

13. **As reflected in the table above, the implications of resolution S-9/1, adopted by the Human Rights Council at its ninth special session, are estimated to give rise to requirements of $1,821,500 of which:**

(a) **An estimated amount of $650,600 will be met from extrabudgetary resources;**

(b) **An estimated amount of $266,900 is envisaged to be met from within the resources already appropriated under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($49,400),**

and section 23, Human rights ($217,500) of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

(c) Additional requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, amounting to $904,000, representing requirements under: (i) section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($80,600); (ii) section 23, Human rights ($823,400); and (iii) section 35, Staff assessment ($17,600), to be offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

14. **The General Assembly is requested to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount of $904,000 (net) for the biennium 2008-2009 under the programme budget to be allocated as outlined in paragraph 13 (c) above. The amount represents the balance of the estimated requirements for implementation of the activities foreseen in resolution S-9/1.**